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Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 022701-915

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Gerald BOCQUENET et al

Application No.: 09/720,598

Filed: May 7, 2001

For: METHOD FOR EVAPORATING
AMINONITRILE

) BOX: RCE

) Group Art Unit: 1626

) Examiner: Ebenezer O. Sackey

) Confirmation No.: 2355

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AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.114

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Official Action [final rejection] mailed June 4, 2002, please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-21 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 22-39 as follows:

22. (New) Process for producing a lactam by a reaction between water vapor and an aminonitrile in vapor phase and in presence of a catalyst, comprising providing water in vapor phase, and vaporizing the aminonitrile by feeding the aminonitrile in liquid phase to be in contact with the water vapor, before contacting the resulting mixture with the catalyst.

23. (New) Process according to claim 1; wherein the water vapor is fed at a temperature of from 120 to 600°C.